

## Kandahar Police Graduates First Class

Story by Staff Sgt. Dave S. Thompson,  
Photos by Spc. Zia Ul Haq  
211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**Kandahar, Afghanistan**—In a ceremony set outdoors in the mid-morning sunshine, the Kandahar Police Force Regional Training Center graduated its first class of 159 Police Officers. Clad in various police uniforms, complete with rank insignia and 'saucer style' caps, the new officers proudly accepted their diplomas then chanted prepared slogans to the exuberant cheers of their counterparts and the audience.

Kandahar's Governor Yusuf Pashtun was one of several dignitaries on hand to congratulate and award the class-members. Lt. Col. Christopher Bentley, 3-6<sup>th</sup> Field Artil-



*Lt. Col. Christopher Bentley represented the Coalition Forces at the Graduation*

lery Commander from Ft. Drum, N.Y., represented Task Force Warrior and spoke of the significance of the event.

"It is an honor to work alongside our Afghan brothers. On behalf of Col. Garrett and the coalition forces, I congratulate [this class] and

look forward to working with you in the future." Bentley also presented diplomas and awards to the graduates.

Graduates of this class were

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*An Afghan National Army soldier prepares to display the capabilities of his T-62 Tank during an Open House at the Afghan Pol-e-Charki base near Kabul, Afghanistan.*

## ANA Struts Their Stuff at Open House

Story and Photos by  
Staff Sgt. Robert R. Ramon  
211th Mobile Public Affairs  
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**Kabul, Afghanistan (March 15, 2004)**— The Afghan National Army showcased its skills, facilities and equipment during a recent Open House at the Kabul Military Training Center and the Afghan Pol-e-Charki base in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Attended by mem-

bers of the media and Ministry of Defense attaches, the one-day open house allowed a first-hand look at a well-trained ANA that will provide a safe, secure and stable environment in which government, economic and civil institutions may develop and become self-sufficient and help to prevent the re-emergence of terrorism.

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pg. 9



## Afghanistan veterans voluntarily prepare next leaders

By Maj. Pete Kilner  
April 2, 2004

**WASHINGTON (Army News Service, April 2, 2004)** — The Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division (Light) will deploy this month to Afghanistan armed with the knowledge of their predecessors.

They are the beneficiaries of a program that shares the experiences of company-level commanders from previous and current deployments to Operation Enduring Freedom with leaders of their upcoming deployment.

"There is no substitute for actual experience," said Maj. Nate Allen, a leader of the CompanyCommand Team that developed the program. "However, we can more effectively prepare for an upcoming experience by learning all we can from those who have already had the experience."

On March 11-13, the CompanyCommand Team delivered the Afghan Commander After Action Review Booklet to every company-level commander in the brigade combat team. The book details the experiences of 41 company commanders who have served in Afghanistan.

"The hardest part was identifying all the previous commanders in Operation Enduring Freedom," said Maj. Tony Burgess, the leader of the book project. "We then developed a Web-

based questionnaire, invited previous and current OEF commanders to complete it, and collated and formatted their responses into the book."

The 82-page AAR book was enthusiastically received by 3 BCT leaders. "This book has been an awesome tool in preparing for our OEF deployment," said Capt. Andy Brosnan, commander of A Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment. "Comments from OEF-4 will be particularly useful as we take over for them in April."

Lt. Col. Walt Piatt, commander of Task Force 2-27 Infantry, hailed the booklet as "the best AAR I've ever read. We adjusted our training plan based on the draft version of this book that the CompanyCommand Team provided in early January," he said.

The 3 BCT Soldiers also had the unique opportunity to interact with company commanders from previous deployments to Afghanistan. On March 15-17, six officers with recent combat experience in Afghanistan visited Schofield Barracks and participated in a series of seminars, professional development sessions, and informal conversations.

"I feel honored to be able to share what I learned with the guys who will be taking over the mission," said Capt. Eric Lopez, who commanded C Company, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry, 10th



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#### Coalition Task Force Warrior Command Sgt. Maj.

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#### 10th Mountain Brigade PAO:

Capt. Kevin K. Dasher

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*\*Continued on next pg.*

### Kandahar Fire Department Tip of the Week

Because of limited automatic fire detection here at Kandahar, proper fire reporting procedures are paramount. A useful acronym "SPEED" illustrates the following actions: **S**ound off—yell fire, fire, fire; **P**hone the Fire Department—call **841-1225**; **E**nsure evacuation; **E**xtinguish if possible; **D**irect the Fire Department to the fire.

On case of fire or emergency contact the KAF Fire Department hotline at  
**841-1225.**

Submitted by MSgt Kevin Stubbs, Assistant Fire Chief





*Female Police Officers were among the 159 graduates at the ceremony*

Stinehour, one of the U.S. Training Advisors. Lead U.S. Training Advisor Paul Scheppf, was brimming with pride as he handed out floral arrangements and diplomas to the grateful Afghans.

In a positive display of the changing attitudes in the country, 2 female officers were among the graduates. The RTC plans to train all the current police officers identified by the Afghan Minister of the Interior, as well as conduct basic training classes for others recruited into the system. 600 Basic Training Officers are scheduled to start a four-week class beginning on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, while 58 males and 4 females are slated to graduate from the course on 8 April 2004.

The program is part of a large effort on the part of the Islamic Transitional Government of Afghanistan and the U.S. led coalition forces to establish the countries infrastructure and bring law and order to people living in the region.

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experienced, ranking police officers that underwent an eleven day Transitional Integration Program (TIP) or "refresher type" training course.

Five American police officers from Texas, North Carolina, and California, assisted in the program as "Training Advisors." They brought with them a vast array of police experience; four of the five having over 30 years in law enforcement. All, save one, has served in the Ameri-

can Armed Forces. Along with America, Germany and Italy are lead partners in the police RTC program, working in conjunction with the local government.

"We are assisting and guiding the Afghans in developing a modernized police force," said Manfred

## — Afghanistan Veterans cont.

Mountain Division in Afghanistan until February. "I wish them well and hope they can benefit from what I learned the hard way."

"This has been an invaluable experience," said Capt. Andy McIntyre, commander of C Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment. "The opportunity to hear actual stories and details rather than the usual 'broad-stroke' generalizations really made the difference."

The program also served family readiness group leaders. More than 35 FRG leaders from the 3rd BCT participated in a seminar led by Traci

Cook, founder of [FRG.army.mil](http://FRG.army.mil), and by Christi Lopez, who shared

her experiences as an FRG leader during her spouse's recent deployment to Afghanistan.

"There were a lot of great ideas and information," said Christina Ballew, the FRG leader of B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment.

"I especially liked the cross talk among FRG leaders," added Lynn Onderko, who leads the FRG of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 225th Aviation Regiment. Both Ballew and Onderko plan to use the FRG Web site for continued ideas and support.

The Afghan Commander Prep program was conceived and produced by the CompanyCommand Team in coordination with Col. Richard Pedersen, commander of the 3 BCT, and his adjutant Maj. Mark Tribus. The

CompanyCommand Team also produces the Web sites <http://companycommand.army.mil> and <http://platoonleader.army.mil>, online professional forums for Army company-level officers. One section of the company-command site, <http://AfghanCommander.army.mil>, serves as a forum specifically for past, present, and future OEF commanders.

"The CompanyCommand Team is a group of officers who have seized the initiative to share information across the Army," said Col. Pedersen. "I wish we'd had this sort of thing when I was a captain."

The CompanyCommand Team is supported by the U.S. Army's Center for the Advancement of Leader Development and Organizational Learning at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point.



# World News

## Jury Acquits Texas Mother Who Killed Sons

By **LISA FALKENBERG**  
Associated Press Writer

**TYLER, Texas (AP)** — A woman who claimed God ordered her to bash in the heads of her sons was acquitted of all charges by reason of insanity Saturday after a jury determined she did not know right from wrong during the killings.

A jury found that Deanna Laney was legally insane May 9 when she killed her two older sons, ages 6 and 8, in the front yard and left the youngest, now 2, maimed in his crib. Laney, 39, would have received an automatic life sentence had she been convicted of capital murder.

Laney broke into tears as the verdict was read. Her husband, Keith Laney, sat solemnly with his head down. A few jurors cried and struggled to maintain their composure.

State law allows Laney to be committed to a maximum security state hospital. Medical evaluations will dictate when she will be released. She will remain at the Smith County Jail until a hearing regarding her transfer.

Defense attorney Tonda Curry said the verdict doesn't mean Laney escaped punishment.

"Now and for the rest of her life, the punishment and torment that's going on in her own head is more significant and more damaging to her than anything the criminal justice system could have done, other than death," Curry said.

All five mental health experts consulted in the case, including two for the prosecution and one for the judge, concluded that a severe mental illness caused Laney to have psychotic delusions that rendered her incapable of knowing right from

wrong during the killings - the standard in Texas for insanity.

Smith County District Attorney Matt Bingham said had no regrets about taking the case to trial.

"This is a case that the citizens of this county needed to make the decision on," he said.



Jurors deliberated about seven hours before reaching their verdict in the deaths of 8-year-old Joshua and 6-year-old Luke, and the beating of Aaron. The baby was found bleeding in his crib while the other two were found with their skulls smashed in the front yard.

Defense attorneys argued that insanity was the only reason why a deeply religious mother who homeschooled her children would kill two of them and maim another without so much as a tear.

"There was no crying," Curry said. "She was insane. There is no other answer."

Psychiatrists testified that Laney believed she was divinely chosen by God - just as

Mary was chosen to bear Christ - to kill her children as a test of faith and then serve as a witness after the world ended. In a videotape played at her trial, Laney said she saw her youngest son play with a spear, hold a rock and squeeze a frog, and took them all as signs from God that she should kill her children.

In closing arguments earlier Saturday, prosecutors portrayed the killings last Mother's Day weekend as deceptively planned and coldly executed.

"It was graphic, it was horrific and it was brutal," Bingham told the jury.

Bingham pounded his fist in his hand as he recounted Joshua's killing: "He got strike after strike after strike on his head to the point that his brains were coming out of his head like liquid."

Prosecutors said that even if Laney believed she was doing right by God, she had to have known she was doing wrong by state law. Her first call, they pointed out, was to 911 to summon authorities.

The 911 tape was among the evidence jurors reviewed during deliberations. Jurors also had asked for psychiatric testimony to resolve a disagreement over why Deanna Laney stopped beating Aaron, then 14 months old, but they reached a verdict before receiving the transcript.

Psychiatrists testified that Laney couldn't finish killing the baby, and that she told God, "You're just going to have to do the rest." Prosecutors said that action indicated Laney knew right from wrong and that if she chose to disobey God's orders by not killing Aaron, she could have disobeyed his orders to kill the other two. Bingham said Aaron, who lives with his father, suffered permanent injuries in the attack.





# World News

## Gunmen Kill 5 at Karachi Police Station

By ZARAR KHAN

Associated Press Writer

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — Suspected Islamic extremists stormed a police station in the southern city of Karachi on Sunday and killed five police, forcing their victims to recite Quranic verses before shooting them, authorities said.

Police officials indicated they suspected Lashkar-e-Janghvi, a militant group linked to al-Qaida that had recently been the target of a police roundup.

"We suspect that they are the same whose accomplices have been arrested by police," Syed Kamil Shah, provincial police inspector-general, told reporters, while declining to name the group outright.

The attack left pools of blood and bullet-scarred walls at the police station, a small building near the airport at Karachi, Pakistan's largest city and the frequent scene of regional violence.

Survivors - including two men who had been in detention at the station, and one policeman who had been at morning prayers - said 10 gunmen stormed the building around dawn.

The attackers shouted "We will not leave any police alive" and opened

fire, officer Khaliq Shaikh told The Associated Press. The men forced their victims to recite Quranic verses for a few seconds before shooting them at close range, Shah said.



Two officers and three constables died. Policeman Mohammed Hussain, who had been at prayer, told AP he picked up his weapon and returned fire from the prayer room.

Hussain, who suffered a bullet wound to the arm, said he shot one attacker. The amount of blood outside led police to believe one assailant had been fatally wounded, although accomplices took him from the scene, said police deputy inspector-general Tariq Jamil.

Authorities later recovered one vehicle that the attackers abandoned after they fled, Shah said. The owner of the vehicle, a banker, gave a description of the men who took it, he said.

Authorities stepped up security at police stations around Karachi.

A port city of 14 million, Karachi has seen a series of attacks by Islamic extremists in recent years.

On March 15, police defused a huge bomb outside the U.S. Consulate in Karachi minutes before it was set to explode. Police have not announced any arrests.

A suicide bomber blew up a truck in front of the consulate in June 2002, killing 14 Pakistanis.

In April 2002, a bomb aimed at the motorcade of Pakistan's President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, a vital ally in the U.S. war on terrorism, failed to detonate as he traveled through Karachi. Three Islamic militants were sentenced to 10 years in prison in that attempt.

Lashkar-e-Jhangvi has been linked to a series of deadly attacks on Christians in Pakistan and on members of the country's Shiite minority. The group, which is believed to have sheltered al-Qaida members in Pakistan, is also thought to be behind a July 4, 2003 mosque attack in Quetta that killed 50 people.





# THE SPORTS

## Serena Drubs Dementieva to Win Nasdaq-100

By STEVEN WINE  
AP Sports Writer

**KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. (AP)** — Serena Williams skipped and grinned and blew kisses, a little surprised to be a champion so soon after an eight-month layoff following her Wimbledon title.

The boldest, brashest player in women's tennis exceeded even her own expectations at the Nasdaq-100 Open. Williams culminated her Key Biscayne comeback Saturday with a performance worthy of her Wonder Woman outfit, routing Elena Dementieva 6-1, 6-1.

The 50-minute women's final was the most one-sided in the 20-year history of the tournament.

"I think the rust has definitely worn off," Williams said. "Honestly, I didn't expect to win my first tournament back."

The top-seeded Williams, returning from knee surgery Aug. 1, lost just one set en route to her third consecutive Key Biscayne title. And she was at her most overwhelming against Dementieva.

"She's a great player," Dementieva said, "and it's just amazing how well she played after this break."

The last top woman to win a title in her first tournament following a layoff of at least six months was Monica Seles, who was sidelined more than two years after being stabbed and won her first comeback event in Toronto in 1995.

"I used her as inspiration," Williams said. "I thought, 'If Monica can do it, maybe I can

at least win a few rounds.'"

Williams is from nearby Palm Beach Gardens, and Andy Roddick hopes home-court advantage will help in the men's final Sunday. As a youngster, Roddick made the one-hour trip down I-95 from his home in Boca Raton to watch tennis on Key Biscayne, sitting in the upper deck.



Williams encountered little resistance on her way to the women's title, partly because the field was unusually weak. She slipped to sixth in the rankings during her layoff and benefited at Key Biscayne from the absence of all five players ranked ahead of her, including No. 1 Justine Henin-Hardenne, the last player to beat Williams.

Also missing was Kim Clijsters, who spent three months at No. 1 last year. Dementieva upset Venus Williams in the quarterfinals to spoil a potential all-Williams final.

"I don't care who I play," Serena said. "I'm going to play them sooner or later."

The No. 5-seeded Dementieva was over-matched and hardly looked like the player who survived a match point to beat Venus Williams.

"It's a shame I don't have a younger sister to play for me today," Dementieva said with a smile.

The Russian, plagued by a shaky serve throughout the tournament, totaled three aces and 57 double faults in six matches. She had no aces and nine double faults against Williams, and won only one of 19 points on her second serve while losing all seven service games.

"I'm glad I lost so easy, because now I'm going to work on my serve and improve my game," Dementieva said. "I realize if I want to win a tournament, I have to be stronger. I have to play better in a final and not like today."

Williams lost the opening game when she committed six unforced errors, and twice was called for a foot fault. Otherwise the performance was her most polished of the tournament.

"I'm back," said Williams, who received \$400,000. "As long as I'm healthy, then I'm definitely still a top competitor."

The victory gives her family six titles at Key Biscayne. Venus Williams, who watched the final and took pictures of the trophy ceremony, also has won the event three times.





# THE SPORTS

## UConn to Play Georgia Tech in NCAA Final

By **EDDIE PELLIS**  
AP Sports Writer

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)** — Led by All-American Emeka Okafor, UConn scored 12 straight points down the stretch Saturday night to rally for a 79-78 victory over Duke and move one game away from the national title.

In Monday night's final, the Huskies will play Georgia Tech, a 67-65 winner over Oklahoma State earlier Saturday. UConn will go for its first championship since 1999, when it beat Duke.

Okafor, who spent almost all of the first half on the bench in foul trouble, scored five points, grabbed three rebounds and shut down Duke's offense over the last four minutes, after Duke had taken a 75-67 lead.

The 6-foot-10 center, who can do a little of everything, finished with 18 points and seven rebounds.

The Blue Devils, who led almost the entire game, walked away losers in their first Final Four appearance since 2001, when they won it all. Coach Mike Krzyzewski lost a tough one, and will have to wait until next year to go for his 65th all-time NCAA tournament win, which would tie him for the record with North Carolina's Dean Smith.

Connecticut hadn't been challenged in the tournament at all, winning its four games by an average of about 17 points. The Blue Devils changed that.

Saddled with two fouls in the first four minutes that sent UConn coach Jim Calhoun into a tizzy against the refs,

Okafor sat on the bench and didn't score a point before halftime. Duke took advantage, ran the ball and pushed its lead to double figures.

He gave UConn a 76-75 lead with 26 seconds left on a typically relentless sequence, missing a shot that bounced around the rim for a couple seconds, but grabbing the rebound for an easy stick back.



UConn's Rashad Anderson hit two free throws to push the lead to three, and after Redick barely grazed the rim with a 3-point attempt that would have tied it, Okafor got the rebound and made a free throw to ice the game.

The win for UConn - the team that seems to have everything: versatile guards, four guys standing 6-10 or taller and, of course,

Okafor - might have answered one of the few questions remaining: Could they handle a close game?

The answer was an emphatic "Yes." And now there's one more test to go, a rematch with the Yellow Jackets, who beat UConn 77-61 early in the season to knock the Huskies from the top spot in The Associated Press poll and let the nation know they were legit.

While Okafor languished on the bench early, guard Ben Gordon kept the Huskies within striking range. He finished with 18 points, and did just enough to overshadow a difficult game by his backcourt mate, Taliek Brown, who had four points and seven turnovers. But the real star was Okafor.

Darting, ducking his shoulder, spinning and going up with power - on both ends of the floor - he controlled the final 20 minutes. Another great sequence came with about nine minutes left, when he launched himself up to swat a shot by Luol Deng. UConn got the ball, worked it to Okafor near the baseline, where he hit a pretty little 12-footer to cut UConn's deficit to 59-58. The game was just warming up, though.

Duke's Daniel Ewing, one of five Blue Devils in double figures, hit three buckets to keep his team ahead. The last of the shots, a 3-pointer with 4:36 left, gave Duke a 73-64 lead. Anderson responded with a 3 for UConn, then Duhon made two free throws to push the lead back to eight. As it turned out, those were the last points Duke would score until Duhon's meaningless 3 at the buzzer.





## HEADLINERS



### **Police Say Robber Got Tired of Waiting**

**KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP)** — No service, no patience, no payoff. According to police, a would-be robber walked out empty-handed Wednesday when he got tired of waiting for someone at a suburban pharmacy to respond to his written demand for narcotics.

Pharmacist Dwight Disney said a man walked up to one of his co-workers at Vaughn Pharmacy in Powell and passed her a note scribbled on an envelope.

The note demanded drugs and said the

robber had a pipe bomb strapped to his chest. Disney said the man pulled back his jacket, revealing some wires.

Disney said his colleague "didn't want to find out if it was real" and brought him the note. The pharmacist called 911.

After all the pharmacy workers avoided approaching the robber for about five minutes, he walked out without a word.

"I didn't have a plan or anything," Disney said. "He helped us when he just decided

to walk out."

Knox County authorities are searching for the suspect.

### **Art Piece Made of Dollar Bills Stolen**

**IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP)** — A University of Iowa student wanted his art display on greed to prove a point. Point taken.

A piece titled "The American Flag" made of 130 dollar bills, meticulously hand-sewn together and colored to resemble the flag was stolen.

"My whole show is about greed and how it can take over anyone, and just having this piece stolen further proves the point,"

Curtis William Readel said.

The piece was put on display Saturday in the University of Iowa Art Building. It was stolen between 9 p.m. and midnight Wednesday, said Duane Papke, associate director of University of Iowa police.

Readel hung a statement in place of the missing artwork.

"This extreme desire for wealth drives individuals to steal something that was laboriously assembled and then displayed to encourage awareness of greed. I find this ironic and very sad that someone would do this in the presence of such a statement," the statement read.

### **Hells Angels Target Students' Logo Use**

**HELSINKI, Finland (AP)** — When graduating from a high school called "Hellu," wearing a class shirt that reads "Hellus Angels" might seem like harmless school spirit - unless it's worn in a bar where Hells Angels members have strong feelings about trademark infringement.

After a student at the Helsinki school was pressured to hand over the shirt to two bikers at a local bar, the school received a request to collect all the remain-

ing shirts and forfeit them to the Finland chapter of the Hells Angels motorcycle club, the Finnish newspaper *Iltaalehti* said Friday.

The motorcycle club took offense at the use of its "Deathhead" logo, a winged, helmet-wearing skull. The organization claims a trademark on the logo registered to the Hells Angels Motorcycle Corp.

The school promptly agreed with the Hells

Angels and is collecting the shirts from its students, admitting the biker group had a strong case.

"This is clearly a stolen logo. It's just a matter of thoughtlessness on the part of the kids," deputy headmaster Eeva-Riitta Mustelin was quoted as saying, adding that the bikers did not want to go to court over the matter.





## ANA from pg. 1

"The security and defense of this country will be the responsibility of Afghanistan in the long term," said Afghan Gen. Abdul Rahim Wardak, Afghanistan's First Deputy Minister of Defense. "Without security, Afghanistan cannot be rebuilt, peace and stability cannot be restored, and economic policies cannot be administered," he said. "The ANA will provide that security to Afghanistan."

Attendees were able to see the great strides made by the ANA since its inception in May 2002.

"The ANA is the most successful reform of an institution in Afghanistan," said Wardak. "The ANA has already proven itself both independently and with the coalition in fighting against terrorists."

The open house began with a tour of the military training center, where the courses including basic training, commissioned and non-commissioned officer training and other advanced classes are conducted. It's here that men from all the ethnic groups in Afghanistan are molded into well-trained soldiers in pursuit of a common goal—securing and stabilizing Afghanistan and fighting terrorists throughout the country.

The professionalism instilled in the soldiers at the military training center and their ethnic diversity play a big part in the warm reception they receive throughout the country.

"The ANA includes soldiers from many ethnic backgrounds, and Afghan people from all groups and religions mutually respect the ANA," said Wardak. "This ethnic participation highlights the continual commitment of the Afghanistan people and government to rebuild their country and the soldiers are welcomed by local people everywhere they go in Afghanistan."

Reporters jockeyed for the best position to capture an impressive display of ANA soldiers marching, accompanied by the army's brass band, at the training center's parade field.

Visitors were then invited to catch

a glimpse of a typical ANA soldier's living conditions by touring one of the newly constructed barracks buildings. From there, the group traveled to the Pol-e-Charki base, home to the ANA Central Corps, minutes away.

During the short drive from the training center to Pol-e-Charki, ANA soldiers were positioned every few meters along the road to provide security. Their professionalism was quite apparent, as Afghan civilians in the area seemed to look upon the soldiers with high regard.

"This professionalism has been demonstrated wherever the ANA has been deployed in Afghanistan including the Loya Jirga security," Wardak said.

The Constitutional Loya Jirga not only resulted in a ratification of the Afghan Constitution, but it also verified the

methodically destroyed targets on the training range. Following each thundering boom, direct hits caused targets to smolder as onlookers conveyed their approval with applause.

Among the audience was Brig. Gen. Thomas P. Mancino, commander of Coalition Joint Task Force Phoenix, comprised mainly of National Guard units from over 20 states, the Oklahoma National Guard's 45th Infantry Brigade Headquarters, and contingents from seven different countries and is tasked with the mission of training the ANA. Mancino watched with satisfaction as our allies in the war against terrorism performed flawlessly.

"The ANA will be a strategic partner in the war against terrorism as well as that of national security," said Wardak.

"The ANA will help the coalition in the fight against terrorism and gain confidence of Afghans on the bright future of their country," he said. "This investment in the ANA will give us real returns in terms of saving lives and money for the coalition."

During recent missions throughout the country in which they were tasked with security operations, denying sanctuary to anti-coalition fighters and with disrupting anti-coalition activity in the region, ANA soldiers have more than

proven their worth to the citizens of Afghanistan. They'll have more opportunities for success in the near future.

"The ANA will provide security for the elections so people can exercise their rights without fear of the Taliban, al Qaeda, or others against Afghanistan," said Wardak. "They will also continue to support the coalition in defeating terrorists and insurgent groups."

Any doubts in the minds of the open house attendants were probably put to rest at the end of the day.

"I hope they have learned from their experiences with the ANA," said Wardak. "The ANA enjoys the full respect, trust and confidence of the people."



Maj. Gen. Craig Weston (left in uniform), Commander of the Office of Military Cooperation – Afghanistan and Brig. Gen. Thomas P. Mancino (right), Commander of Coalition Joint Task Force Phoenix, enjoy the Afghan National Army's T-62 Tank demonstration during an Open House

soaring abilities of the ANA that was tasked to provide security for the large council meeting.

"They provided the security so professionally and earned the respect and admiration of everyone who witnessed it," said Wardak.

Lunch awaited the visitors at Pol-e-Charki. The long tables lined the dining facility as the guests were treated to the day's lunch menu that included chicken, rice, Afghan bread, and a variety of fruits and vegetables.

After lunch, ANA soldiers displayed some of their equipment and capabilities, including rifles, machine guns, tanks, trucks, etc.

ANA tankers displayed the awesome firepower of their T-62 tanks as they



## **Soldier Profile;** **Sgt. Maurice Grey**



*Story and photos by  
SSGT Dave. S. Thompson 211th MPAD*

**Kandahar, Afghanistan**—One would be hard pressed to consider Sgt. Maurice Grey an imposing figure. At 5 feet 4 inches tall and 150 pounds, he would hardly stand out in a crowd. What sets the 25-year-old Oakland, CA. native apart from the rank and file is his incredible, super human strength.

Grey departed Ft. Bragg, NC, and arrived at Kandahar Air Field (KAF) in mid January. Assigned to the 1-3<sup>rd</sup> Special Forces Group as a light wheel vehicle mechanic, he spends his days maintaining the units vehicles and keeping them in tip-top shape to withstand the harsh conditions of the Afghan landscape. After duty hours however, Grey can be found in the post gym forging the thick muscles that ripple beneath his brown tee shirts.

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Through high school, Grey ran track, and played football and basketball. He stated that he was always active but only got into weightlifting some three years ago when an Army buddy talked him into working out. "People would always refer to me as the short guy. I wanted another characteristic feature," said Grey. So, he started pumping iron.

Results were almost instantaneous as he started packing on the muscles he attributes to good genetics. "I'm all natural," Grey stated. "I don't use any supplements, creatine, protein, or any of that stuff, and I eat whatever I want. My father is six three and I pretty much have his built with the exception of the height of course"

Grey shocked and awed both contestants and spectators alike when he won the 150 to 165 pound weight class at the KAF Bench Press Competition by pressing an amazing 365 pounds. The press was good for the second heaviest among all weight class competitors and outdone only by a lift of 405 pounds by a man weighing 235 pounds.

The lift was an incredible display of raw power and a mind boggling 213 pounds over his competing weight of 152 pounds. By all power lifting standards, a person is considered extremely strong if

he or she is able to bench press 100 pounds above his or her body weight. Grey stated that his heaviest bench press was 385 pounds and he hopes to be able to press 405 before leaving KAF.

Married with two children, 7-year-old Ivella, and 6-year-old Devon, Grey, an energetic man with a booming voice, stated that he had no immediate plans to pursue power lifting beyond the military. "It's (weightlifting) more like a hobby for me," he said. If someone approached me and was willing to sponsor and promote me, I might consider it."

For now, he is content to do his part to defeat the enemy here in Afghanistan and amaze onlookers with his super man strength until he returns home to his family back at Bragg.



*Sgt. Grey placed 1st in the Weightlifting Competition by pressing 365lbs.*

### **KANDAHAR WEEKLY FORECAST**

	Monday 5 April	Tuesday 6 April	Wednesday 7 April	Thursday 8 April	Friday 9 April	Saturday 10 April	Sunday 11 April
	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy
<b>High</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Low</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Sun-Rise</b>	<b>0120</b>	<b>0119</b>	<b>0118</b>	<b>0117</b>	<b>0115</b>	<b>0114</b>	<b>0113</b>
<b>Sun-Set</b>	<b>1359</b>	<b>1359</b>	<b>1400</b>	<b>1401</b>	<b>1401</b>	<b>1402</b>	<b>1403</b>

**KANDAHAR COMBAT WEATHER TEAM**

**Mountain Warrior Weekly** is always accepting comments and suggestions as to how we can improve your newspaper. If you have comments or suggestions, or simply just want to be added to our emailing list, email the staff at

*Kandaharpresscenter@yahoo.com*

